All hospitalized patients with AHF
N = 646
Excluded
Acute infection, N = 126
Acute COPD exacerbation, N = 62
Severe renal failure (creatinine > 400 μmol/L), N = 60
Active malignant disease, N = 69
Systemic autoimmune disease, N = 3
Pregnancy, N = 1
N = 321
Patients eligible for the study
N = 325
Unwilling to participate
N = 10
Enrolled patients
N = 315